WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for defining a project in a computer graphics program comprising:

defining a project file comprising general information regarding the project;

defining a folder structure for the project wherein one or more project drawing files are organized into various folders by drawing file type; and

defining a companion file for each project drawing file, wherein each companion file comprises information to link each project drawing file to the project.


2. The method of claim 1, wherein the general information is selected from a group comprising:

a project name;

a project number;

a project level;

a project division;

a first default template for a new element;

a second default template for a new construct;

a third default template for a new view; and

a fourth default template for a new sheet;


3. The method of claim 1, wherein the project drawing file comprises an extensible markup language (XML) document.

4.     The method of claim 1, wherein the companion file comprises an extensible markup language (XML) file.

5.     The method of claim 1, wherein the various folders comprise:

an elements folder for element type drawing files;

a constructs folder for construct type drawing files;

a views folder for view type drawing files; and

a sheets folder for sheet type drawing files.

6.     The method of claim 5, wherein the element type drawing file comprises a set of geometry that may be repeated throughout a project.

7.     The method of claim 5, wherein the construct type drawing file comprises:

an identification of geometry and data for a particular level/wing and category of the project; and

one or more elements.

8.     The method of claim 5, wherein the view type drawing file automatically assembles appropriate constructs to represent a portion of a project that has been selected based upon user specified data.

9.     The method of claim 5, wherein the sheet type drawing file comprises

one or more views and represents a printed/plotted document.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the defining a companion file further comprises:

5 defining a user definable category and value for project information;

storing said user definable category and value in the companion file.

11. An apparatus for defining a project in a computer graphics program comprising:

10 (a) a computer having a memory;

(b) an application executing on the computer, wherein the application is configured to:

(i) define a project file comprising general information regarding the project;

15 (ii) define a folder structure for the project wherein one or more project drawing files are organized into various folders by drawing file type; and

(iii) define a companion file for each project drawing file, wherein each companion file comprises information to link each project drawing file to 20 the project.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the general information is selected from a group comprising:

a project name;

a project number;

a project level;

a project division;

5        a first default template for a new element;

a second default template for a new construct;

a third default template for a new view; and

a fourth default template for a new sheet;


10       13.     The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the project file comprises an extensible markup language (XML) document.


14.     The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the companion file comprises an extensible markup language (XML) file.

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15.     The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the various folders comprise:

an elements folder for element type drawing files;

a constructs folder for construct type drawing files;

a views folder for view type drawing files; and

20       a sheets folder for sheet type drawing files.


16.     The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the element type drawing file comprises a set of geometry that may be repeated throughout a project.

17. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the construct type drawing file comprises:

an identification of geometry and data for a particular level/wing and category

5 of the project; and

one or more elements.

18. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the view type drawing file automatically assembles appropriate constructs to represent a portion of a project that

10 has been selected based upon user specified data.

19. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the sheet type drawing file comprises one or more views and represents a printed/plotted document.

15 20. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the application is configured to define the companion file by:

defining a user definable category and value for project information; and

storing said user definable category and value in the companion file.

20 21. An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform a method for defining a project in a computer graphics program, the method comprising:

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defining a project file comprising general information regarding the project;

defining a folder structure for the project wherein one or more project drawing files are organized into various folders by drawing file type; and

defining a companion file for each project drawing file, wherein each

5     companion file comprises information to link each project drawing file to the project.

22.     The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the general information is selected from a group comprising:

a project name;

10         a project number;

a project level;

a project division;

a first default template for a new element;

a second default template for a new construct;

15         a third default template for a new view; and

a fourth default template for a new sheet;

23.     The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the project file comprises an extensible markup language (XML) document.

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24.     The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the companion file comprises an extensible markup language (XML) file.

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25.     The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the various folders comprise:

an elements folder for element type drawing files;

a constructs folder for construct type drawing files;

5          a views folder for view type drawing files; and

a sheets folder for sheet  type drawing files.


26.     The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein the element type drawing file comprises a set of geometry that may be repeated throughout a project.

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27.     The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein the construct type drawing file comprises:

an identification of geometry and data for a particular level/wing and category of the project; and

15         one or more elements.


28.     The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein the view type drawing file automatically assembles appropriate constructs to represent a portion of a project that has been selected based upon user specified data.

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29.     The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein the sheet type drawing file comprises one or more views and represents a printed/plotted document.

30.     The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the method for defining a companion file further comprises:

defining a user definable category and value for project information; and

storing said user definable category and value in the companion file.